Wentworth School Board

Monday, September 26th, 2005 – 6:00 pm
School Board Meeting Minutes
Wentworth Elementary School

Members Present: Deborah Gelsi, Scott Goodale, Laurie Dustin


WES Staff Present : Kathy Berei – Phys. Ed, Tanya O’Brien, Brooke Duchette

Community Members Present: Todd Bickford, Melody Gaudette, Palmer Kolb, Debbie Kolb, Glen Hinckley, Henry Kulawasha. Tabitha Coykendall, Ginny Gove, Maria Young, Vinny Samson

Deborah Gelsi moves to open meeting at 5:58 pm Laurie Dustin 2nd’s. There are no objections, motion carries.

Deborah Gelsi moves to amend the agenda to move Privilege of the Floor to be heard after the facilities update and to reflect Vinny Samson as a guest speaker. Also, amend the agenda to reflect the Kindergarten Tuition Request to non public where it involves a particular student by name, with a request that has personal and private information as evidentiary information (date of birth, location of birth) Laurie Dustin 2nd’s. There are no objections and the motion carries.

There was discussion of the minutes from the last meeting. Mrs. Dustin claims she wrote the minutes and forwarded them to the SAU. The SAU has not received them as of the meeting. Mrs. Dustin no longer has her notes from the meeting. Mrs. Gaides and Mrs. Gelsi will retrieve the notes that they took individually and work to reconstruct a new version of the minutes.

Jon Francis updates the board on current facilities projects and will be forwarding copies of the blueprints to Glen Hinckley for review by the Facilities Committee. The new boiler is in and the next step is to coordinate and install thermostats in each classroom for added zone controls. The board asks several questions - all of which were answered satisfactorily by Mr. Francis and Mr. Hinckley. Those present were invited to tour the facility at that time, which all did and the board is duly impressed with the work that the Facilities committee and Mr. Francis have accomplished. The new wall and doors are completed so Stage I of the project is successful. The Board would like the SAU to send a note of thanks to Charlie Buffet, the engineer for the project who exceeded all expectations for his work on the project.

Deborah Gelsi motions to accept as the report from Jon Francis Scott Goodale 2nd’s. There are no objections, motion carries

Privilege of the Floor

Vinny Samson informs the board and public that she has started a group to raise awareness regarding communications with the school, the SAU and the Board. Her goal is to connect the parent with the right people at the School and the SAU. A group called NH Connections would like to be affiliated with the group. An informal study performed by Mrs. Samson suggests to her that there are several students that are lacking in needed assistance. She would like to work with the School and the SAU to affect positive change by identifying those students in need. She has reviewed several students IEP’s and spoken with some parents and would like to be a positive liaison between these parents and the school to affect positive change. Particularly as it relates to bullying. Palmer Kolb addressed the board and indicated that he had first hand experience with a bullying episode at the school and that as far as he was
concerned, Mr. Keene handled the issue in a straightforward and resolute manner and he is very satisfied with the way the problem was addressed and is confident in the school's new bullying policy. Several others also remarked on the bullying policy and that it is very clear and defined and that Mr. Keene is addressing each individual case with competence and firmness.

Principals Report

CAT scores are in. While we are indeed below average on a couple of items, overall, we are doing well. We will be moving to the NEAP/NCAP testing as the CAT is inconclusive and overall not a decent measuring tool of our students' achievements.

Deborah Gelsi motions to accept report as presented. Laurie Dustin 2nd’s. There are no objections, motion carries.

Kathy Berei presented a Powerpoint presentation that illustrated the positive aspects of the Winter Ski Program. A discussion followed and the board allows that the ski program should continue.

The Board approves the funding for the school's contribution for the purchase of Soccer Jackets for the soccer team. The children most decidedly deserve as much recognition as the basketball or baseball teams.

The Board reviews their goals for the 2005-2006 school year. They are as follows:

The Board moves to change the date and time of the meeting for the school committees to the 1st Monday of the month at 7:pm.

Recognition and Awards

Mr. Keene would like to recognize the following people: - All of the workers who worked on the walls and doors of the gym this past summer. - Melody Gaudette of the PTO - Angela Comeau for being instrumental in our ongoing quest to have book authors visit the school. MaryLynn Ray will be visiting us soon.

Deborah Gelsi motions to move to Non Public at 8:34 Scott Goodale 2nd’s. There are no objections, motion carries.

Deborah Gelsi motions to adjourn 9:00 pm Scott Goodale 2nd’s. There are no objections and motion carries.

Respectfully,

Deborah Gelsi School Board Chairperson
MEMBERS PRESENT
Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Dustin

OTHERS PRESENT
Mrs. Gaides, Mr. Keene, Mrs. Bownes – Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT
Mr. Newbury, Mrs. Gaudette, Mrs. Sampson, Mr. Garrett, Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Blake, Mrs. Comeau, Mrs. Sanbron

CALL TO ORDER
Mrs. Gelsi called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW AND DISPOSITION
The Board reviewed and disposed of the agenda.

It was the consensus of the Board to add the following items to the non-public portion of the agenda:

1. Student Item (2)
2. Special Education Item

It was the consensus of the Board to delete the following items from the non-public portion of the agenda:

1. Personnel Item

MINUTES
It was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2005 as presented. Vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2005 meeting as presented. Vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2005 meeting as presented. Vote was unanimous.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS
Mrs. Gelsi advised that when she ran for the Board there was concern relative to the possible closing of the school. She stated that most of the town at that time came forward and volunteered to help the school, but it is evident since that time that these people are not coming out to help. She said that there is the expectation in the community that the Board will fix the problems
exists. She asked that the community come together and try to help work out the problems that exist.

With regard to the opinion being expressed that there is a need for a 5 member Board she charged those present with finding additional members for the Board.

Mrs. Gelsi reviewed the ground rules for future Board meetings.

Mrs. Gelsi advised that Mrs. Holmes is trained as a school resource officer and stated that we need to start using her in every way we can.

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**  
In addition to Mr. Keene’s written report, he briefly reviewed the following items with the Board:

- Merrowvista and Youth Training for Life Conference (to develop leadership and resiliency skills to serve a collective mission of preventing and reducing youth alcohol, tobacco and other drug use - students from 7th & 8th grade nominated to attend conference from November 11 – 13, 2005)
- Magazine Drive (underway)
- NECAP Testing (complete)
- Kitchen Inspection (involves budget recommendations, which are to be considered during the budget process)
- Holiday Concert (December 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.)
- December 19, 2005 Board meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.
- Red Ribbon Week (Drug Awareness Week – schedule of events reviewed)
- Use of Public Library (reviewed)

Mrs. Dustin inquired as to the students are that will be participating in the Youth Training for Life Conference and Mr. Keene advised that there are 8 students in all and he will provide those names to the Board. Mr. Keene advised that this is not a school sponsored event.

It was the consensus of the Board to conduct a phone poll, once the names of the students are available.

Mrs. Gaides advised that there should be school personnel serving as chaperones, preferably one male and one female.

It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin to accept the Principal’s Report as presented. Vote was unanimous.
CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged the following correspondence

1. “The Views”
2. Miscellaneous magazines, pamphlets, etc.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Musical Recorders
For 3rd Grade

Mr. Keene advised that the recorder is introduced at the 4th grade level.

Mr. Keene advised that they are introduced to musical instruments in grade 5.

Mrs. Comeau said her goal is for the music teacher to reconsider the introduction of recorders to the 3rd grade.

Mrs. Comeau said that a group of parents are willing to purchase the recorders if necessary.

It was pointed out that the recorders are available within the school.

Mrs. Comeau said that class size is not an issue and the students are capable.

Mrs. Dustin and Mrs. Gelsi agreed that they could support introducing recorders in the 3rd grade.

Mr. Keene said that he would discuss this again with the teacher and see if it can fit.

Relocation – Dumpster

Mrs. Comeau said her recommendation is to relocate the dumpster as it is distracting being right outside of a classroom. Mrs. Sanborn said that children have run into the dumpster in the past and it is a safety issue. She also commented that when the truck comes to empty it, there is distraction to the classroom.

Mr. Keene said he is already looking into this and pricing fencing for around the dumpster.

Committee Meeting Dates

It was the consensus of the Board that the School Committee meetings be held on Tuesday, November 22, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

It was the consensus of the Board to do a mailing to notify potential Committee members of the scheduled meeting.

Educational Equity Grant

Mrs. Gelsi reviewed the memorandum from Mr. Halloran, Superintendent, dated October 17, 2005 relative to Educational
Equity Grants. Mrs. Gelsi advised that Wentworth Elementary will be receiving $21,793 more in revenue than was expected in March. She advised that this extra revenue will be used to reduce the assessment to the community.

**ESOL Compliance Guide**

Mrs. Gaides presented and reviewed the ESOL Compliance Guide. She stated that this guide was put together by Mrs. Boyle, Assistant Superintendent and follows federal guidelines relative to ESOL.

It was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to approve the ESOL Compliance Guide as presented. Vote was unanimous.

**Investment Policy**

It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin to accept and approve the Investment Policy as presented. Vote was unanimous.

With regard to the letter received by Mrs. Gelsi and Mrs. Dustin relative to the investment policy, it was agreed that the letter would be addressed Thursday.

**Other**

With regard to the Unauthorized Communication Devices policy, it was the consensus of the Board that the policy doesn’t go far enough. Mrs. Gelsi said she would like to see things such as CD players, Ipods, etc. included.

Mrs. Sanborn commented that with regard to the use of CD’s, Ipods, etc. there is a benefit to allowing their use on the busses on the way to field trips. She informed the Board that the children are not not allowed to use these devices in school or during the field trip. She said that these devices often times help keep children calm and give them something to do on the ride.

Mrs. Gelsi said that her concern is that there are children who might be seriously injured because they do not have these devices. She said she can see the potential for disagreements and problems.

Mr. Keene said that from what he has seen, the children share these devices and it has never been an issue.

Mrs. Gelsi said that there are 6 people killed in Florida due to video games. She asked what happens to those children who don’t have these games and are envious of those who do.
It was the consensus of the Board to table this item and have Mrs. Gaides research what is being done in other schools with regard to electronic devices.

**RECOGNITION & AWARDS**

Mr. Keene congratulated Mrs. Horn and the soccer teams for posting the best record in many years.

Mr. Keene recognized Letitia Goss for becoming a published poet.

Mr. Keene recognized Mrs. Comeau and the PTO for developing the African Drumming program (The Black Bear Moon Ensemble).

Mrs. Sanborn advised that grades 1, 2 & 3 will be working with ETC (January) and there will be items on display in Silver Cultural Arts Center in mid January.

Mrs. Sanborn said that the staff would love to be able to enable the children (10) to attend the production that Saturday. She said this is being worked on.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #2**

Mrs. Sampson advised that she chaperoned her first dance here last week and enjoyed it. She said that the D.J. was excellent and the children really enjoyed it.

Mrs. Sampson said she would like to see a generic form developed for chaperones to provide positive and negative feedback on their experiences at the dances.

Mrs. Sampson said she would like the dance/school rules to be reviewed with the students prior to the dance.

Mrs. Gelsi asked if copies of the police reports relative to the dances are available through the department and Mrs. Holmes advised that they are.

Mrs. Holmes said that along with the rules being posted, the consequences for breaking those rules should be posted.

Mrs. Sampson, with regard to the field trip to the Webster Memorial Library, pointed out that the form sent home had two different dates on it. Mrs. Sampson said that she would like some parent involvement in the form of assistance with driving, chaperoning, etc.
Mrs. Gelsi said that if Mrs. Sampson would like to attend she should contact the classroom teacher.

Mrs. Comeau asked that Mrs. Young be recognized for the use of her vehicle for these trips.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

*Claims and Payroll*

The Board signed A/P manifest #11 & 12, and P/R 9 as presented.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

At 7:52 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin that the Board move into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss Kindergarten Tuition (Parent Request) and Personnel items. The Board was polled, vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

At 8:55 p.m. it was moved by Deb Gelsi seconded by Laurie Dustin that the Board return to public session. Vote was unanimous.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Following are the upcoming meeting dates for the Wentworth School Board:

- November 21, 2005
- December 19, 2005
- January 23, 2006
- February 20, 2006

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:00 p.m., it was moved by Deb Gelsi, seconded by Laurie Dustin that there being no further business to come before the Board, that the meeting be adjourned. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Bownes
Recording Secretary
Board Works
Addendum to October 24, 2005 Minutes

Per a phone vote, the School Board decided to accept Scott Goodale’s resignation from the School Board. The remaining members of the School Board voted unanimously.
MEMBERS PRESENT  Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Dustin

OTHERS PRESENT  Mrs. Gaides, Mr. Keene, Mr. Francis

PUBLIC PRESENT  Mr. Hinckley, Mr. Comeau, Mrs. Gaudette, Mrs. Fryer

CALL TO ORDER  Mrs. Gelsi called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

DISCUSSION  Jon Francis presented Century Mechanical Inc.’s bid for mechanical renovations. He discussed the savings to the school district, based on the bid, if all of the phases were completed next year. A discussion ensued regarding the Capital Reserve fund and the monies left over from the projects this year. Ethel will report back the balances of the two funds at the next School Board meeting. Mr. Hinckley asked if there was a state contractor’s bid sheet. Ethel said she would have an answer at the next School Board meeting. It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin to have a request for bids in the newspaper. This is for mechanical renovations as per engineering specs on file with Jon Francis at Plymouth Regional High School. Ethel is to have the impact on the tax rate per thousand for the entire project for the next School Board meeting.

A discussion centered on enrollment projections resulted in a decision to have Mr. Keene draft a letter and postcard that would be mailed to all residents to inquire on birth through age 5 residents. The letter and postcard would be mailed from Central Office with postcards being returned to Wentworth Elementary School for the Enrollment Committee to tally and report back to the School Board at their next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT  At 8:00 p.m., it was moved by Deb Gelsi, seconded by Laurie Dustin that there being no further business to come before the Board, that the meeting be adjourned. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ethel Gaides, Assistant Superintendent
Wentworth School Board

December 19, 2005
School Board Meeting Minutes
Wentworth Elementary School

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Dustin, Mrs. Mack (5:40 p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT

Mrs. Gaides, Mr. Keene, Mrs. Bownes – Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT

Mr. Francis, Mrs. Gaudette, Mr. & Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Rick, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Bagley, Mr. Muzzey (6:02 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Gelsi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW AND DISPOSITION

The Board reviewed and disposed of the agenda.

MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2005, November 22, 2005, December 5, 2005 and the December 12, 2005 meetings as presented. Vote was unanimous.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

In addition to Mr. Keene’s written report, he briefly reviewed the following items with the Board:

1. November 23, 2005 held an African Dance Residency (PTO thanked for assisting with this)
2. Christmas Concert (this evening)
3. Mrs. Robertson, Guidance, PRHS, visit to the 8th grade (regarding academics, discipline, etc. – tour of PRHS to be held in the future)

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged the following correspondence

1. NHSBA (conference notification)
2. Various Periodicals
3. Letter from NHDOT re: Saunders Hill Road (over Baker Hill River) and change of weight limit
4. Letter from Certified Accountant re: Wentworth School District Indebtedness to SAU
5. Letter from Warren School Board re: response to Warren’s proposal for exchange of students and tuition (Mrs. Gaides will draft a letter to the Warren School Board for review by the Wentworth School Board on December 20, 2005)

Mrs. Mack joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.
Mrs. Sanborn inquired as to the student exchange proposal and it was explained that Kindergarten students from Wentworth will go to Warren and the Warren 7th & 8th grade students will come to Wentworth.

A citizen at the meeting inquired if exchanging of other grade level students was a possibility and Mrs. Gelsi explained that at this time, that is not part of the proposal.

1. Memorandum from Mr. Keene regarding proposed field trips

It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin to review the memorandum regarding field trips as part of the budget process. Vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Board scheduled a budget work session for Monday, Budget Work Session Dates January 2 & 9, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

OTHER

None

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Mr. Keene recognized the following individuals:

- Sarah Bragdon, published poet
- Denise Filteau, 1st place at USASA snowboarding event this past weekend

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

A citizen at the meeting inquired if the School Board would support and word a warrant article for a 5-member Board. Mrs. Gelsi advised that 2 warrant articles will be drafted relative to a 5-member board.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board signed A/P manifest #16 as presented.
Claims and Payroll

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 5:59 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin that the Board move into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss personnel items, vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC SESSION

At 6:30 p.m. it was moved by Mrs.Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin that the Board return to public session. Vote was unanimous.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Following are the upcoming meeting dates for the Wentworth School Board:

January 23, 2006
February 20, 2006
March 20, 2006
April 17, 2006

The Budget Hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.
The Annual School District Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:30 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin that there being no further business to come before the Board, that the meeting be adjourned. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Bownes  
Recording Secretary  
Board Works
Wentworth School Board

January 2, 2006
BUDGET WORK SESSION
Wentworth Elementary School

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Dustin, Mrs. Mack

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Gaides, Mr. Keene

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Mrs. Melanson, Mrs. Douchette, Mrs. Gaudette

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Dustin called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

During public session, Mrs. Melanson brought up the fact that some teachers are not getting a Wentworth contract. She also stated that the board could cut $33,000 for the anticipated SpEd placement. However, the school board did not vote to do it. The SpEd aides were discussed. Mrs. Melanson stated there was a need for 3 SpEd aides. One for grade 7, one for grade 8, and one for the Resource Room. The fourth aide was discussed (for the grades one/two combined classroom).

The school board did not want to cut the teacher ($41,168). They decided they would find the $41,168 in the budget. So the school board made the following cuts:

- Level fund books and print media to save $1,111.
- Change the percentage increase for Kindergarten to 5% (instead of 7%) to follow the cut the Rumney board made for tuition (Montview).
- Substitute Salaries: Cut down from 100 days to 75 days to save $1,500.
- Dues and fees: level fund to last year to save $2,212.
- Aides: Cut 1 SpEd aide (Penny who has left anyway) to save $13,091.
- Put one of the aides as a regular education aide to work with teacher in grades 1&2. Take the aide out of the SpEd budget to reflect SpEd VS. regular education aide.
- Cut Gifted and talented to $1.00 to save $1,999.
- Cut Replacement of Equipment (athletics) to $1.00 to save $999.
- Cut building services new equipment (security to front door) to save $2,675.
- Cut building services replacement of equipment (back stop) to save $3,175.
- Cut new equipment to save $6,000. (Q Hut/new storage shed).

The board members want to know IF school board members need to be paid. They are willing to work for free.
NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

At 6:38 PM, the Board moved into Non-Public session. The school board discussed the 4 teachers’ contracts that are not Wentworth’s contracts.

PUBLIC SESSION:

At 7:15 PM, the Board moved back in public session and voted to make all 4 contracts Wentworth contracts for the time the 4 teachers are in Wentworth. They gave Mrs. Gaides permission to call the 4 teachers. The savings on the 4 contracts will put the budget over the $41,168.

Adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Ethel Gaides
Assistant Superintendent
Wentworth School Board

January 9, 2006
BUDGET WORK SESSION #2
Wentworth Elementary School

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Dustin, Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Gelsi

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Gaides, Mr. Keene

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Mrs. Melanson, Mrs. Douchette, Mrs. Gaudette, J. Comeau, G. Hinckley, T. Blake, P. Sanborn

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

The School Board reviewed Draft #3 of the budget. Mrs. Gelsi stated there will be the potential for 8 kindergarten students next year so the school board voted to increase the amount of tuition to include 8 students.

Mrs. Gelsi asked if they had to be members of NHSBA (savings of $2,000). Mrs. Gaides will look into it.

A discussion ensued on the differences between the 3% teacher increase and the 3.8% projected support staff increases. It was noted that the support staff (aides) currently make between $9.00 and $9.58 per hour.

A discussion ensued on the Principal’s salary and the differences between Regular Education Salaries (1100.110 account), Purchase Prof & Tech Services (1110.300 account), and the Principal’s Office (2410.110) accounts. The public suggested that there were hidden costs. It was explained that all teachers working at Wentworth will be on a Wentworth teacher salary schedule. The School Board requested an explanation of the Principal’s salary. Mrs. Gaides will complete a handout on teachers and principal salaries similar to Rumney’s blue book.

The meeting with Warren was discussed. The School Board requested that “Tuition Agreement with Warren” be placed on the next school board agenda. The School Board would like to consider a number of tuition students (maximum of 5) from Warren for grade 7 in Wentworth next year. Mr. Keene will discuss this with his staff on Wednesday. Maximum class size needs to be determined with regards to the classroom space. The School Board requested a copy of Plymouth’s application process.

The School Board discussed the warrant articles. Mrs. Gelsi asked that the article on School Board membership be changed to reflect a special district meeting (per the RSA that Mrs. Gelsi read). Mrs. Gaides will look into it.

Mrs. Gaides reported that no new bids were presented to Jon Francis. There is a bid from Johnson Controls (through Jon Francis) that will be available to the School Board at the next School Board meeting.

The School Board requested that Jon Francis attend the budget hearing and district meetings.
Glen Hinckley left a copy of the proposed mechanical renovations with Mr. Keene so that the community can visit the school to review them. The School Board requested that Jon Francis write up a fuel consumption comparison of costs over the past few years and guesstimate what the payback might be over the next few years with the mechanical renovations if the entire project is approved by the voters.

The School Board decided, after input from the public, to have two warrant articles for the proposed mechanical renovations. One of the articles will be for the entire project. The other warrant article will be for Phases 2 and 3.

Much discussion ensued on the presentation of the budget. Glen Hinckley felt that the current budget packet was too confusing for the public. He stated that the public are not accountants. Mrs. Gaides suggested that Mrs. Gelsi meet with her at Central Office to decide on the presentation.

At 7:20 PM, The Board moved to non-public.

During non-public, the School Board discussed the need for an Out-Of-District placement. A Kindergarten issue was also discussed.

At 8:15 PM, the Board moved to return to Public session.

The School Board voted to eliminate $30,000 (OD placement) from the budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ethel Gaides
Assistant Superintendent
MEMBERS PRESENT  Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Dustin (6:27 p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT  Mrs. Gaides, Mr. Keene, Mrs. Bownes – Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT  Mr. Comeau, Mr. Francis,

CALL TO ORDER  Mrs. Gelsi called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW AND DISPOSITION  The Board reviewed and disposed of the agenda.

MINUTES  It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2005, January 2, 2006 Budget Work Session, and the January 9, 2006 Budget Work Session, meeting as presented. Vote was unanimous.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT  In addition to Mr. Keene’s written report, he briefly reviewed the following items with the Board:

1. 2-Day Workshop held on January 16 & 17 re: Curriculum Mapping
2. Ski Date cancelled and will be made up
3. Plans for PTO Message Board for New Sign Anticipated for the Front of the School
4. Correspondence from Warren School Board re: Kindergarten Scholarship (passed by school Board and will be a warrant article to be voted on by the Town of Warren)
5. Warren Tuition Students (concerns and recommendations from Wentworth Staff)

CORRESPONDENCE  The Board acknowledged the following correspondence:

1. Various Periodicals
2. NHSBA Policies Update
3. Various Training and Conference Offerings
4. Letter from Robertson Transportation re: school bus stop at Beech Hill Road and recommendation to move the bus stop
5. Correspondence from NHDOT re: Bridge Inspections

DISCUSSION ITEMS  

Warren Tuition

Mrs. Gelsi advised that with regard to the Kindergarten tuition, Wentworth will benefit greatly in terms of cost.

Mrs. Gelsi with regard to the Warren 7th graders being tuitioned to Wentworth, expressed her opinion that this should be a warrant article, so that the town can decide.

Mrs. Gelsi expressed her opinion that a scholarship for those 7th graders coming from
Warren, should be considered in light of the decision by the Warren Board to reduce the cost of the Wentworth Kindergarten students attending the Warren Kindergarten.

Mrs. Gelsi said that the language “class size permitting” will be included in any agreement with Warren. Mrs. Gelsi pointed out that any special education needs (aids, etc.) for the students from Warren will be paid for by the Warren School District.

It was the consensus of the Board that 5 students from Wentworth will be accepted (class size permitting).

Mrs. Gelsi suggested determining what is being charged by Orford before any discounting of tuition is recommended.

It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin to leave the tuition figure at the current rate of $10,620. Vote was unanimous.

**Warrant Articles/Budget**

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed warrant articles with those present.

**Other Issues**

None

**RECOGNITION & AWARDS**

Mr. Keene recognized the following individuals:

- Tyler Clark, Shawn Young, Eric Young Erin Marsh Tyler Dustin, and Nathan Wright (Tai Kwon Doa)
- Mary Kat Melanson, Kyla Morrison, Jessica Toomey for their participation in the Annual NH Earn Your Turns Skiing
- Suessical the Musical

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

None

**CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board signed A/P #19, 20 and P/R manifest #16 as presented.

**Claims and Payroll**

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

At 7:37 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin that the Board move into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss personnel items, vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

At _______ p.m. it was moved by seconded by that the Board return to public session. Vote was unanimous.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Following are the upcoming meeting dates for the Wentworth School Board:

- February 20, 2006
- March 20, 2006
- April 17, 2006
- May 15, 2006
June 19, 2006

The Budget Hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

The Annual School District Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**  At _____ p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Dustin that there being no further business to come before the Board, that the meeting be adjourned. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Bownes
Recording Secretary
Board Works
Wentworth School Board
Thursday, January 26, 2006
Wentworth Minutes

Board Members Present: Deb Gelsi, Kathleen Mack, Laurie Dustin
Administration Present: Ethel Gaides, Jeff Keene
Others Present: Maria Young, Laurie Melanson, Richard Young, Alison Bagley, Phoebe Sanborn, Tanya O’Brien, Erin DeCotis, Brian DuBois, Bernice Sullivan, Brooke Duchette, Gaudette, Karen Fryer, Lisa Horne, Carl Chareteketti, Lee Morrison

PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Gelsi motioned to begin Public session at 5:07 PM.

Mrs. Gelsi began the meeting by giving approval to the teachers association to make a presentation, as long as no names were mentioned.

Mrs. Gelsi gave a summery of her memorandum (attached). She also explained that the enrollment numbers show that the student to teacher ratio for Wentworth Elementary School is far below SAU 48, and other SAU’s (attached). She also explained that the testing scores are way below others in the SAU. (attached) She stated that, given these facts, if something doesn’t change, the School Board will have a difficult time justifying a $2 million budget in 2007.

Mrs. Fryer gave her presentation. She stated that the goals of the school are to meet the needs of the students. She stated that the teachers of WES care about the students. Her graph represented the curriculum taught, and the gaps in the curriculum that need to be addressed. The graph represented the curriculum for science and social studies.

A discussion ensued regarding teaching a combined classroom. Mrs. Gelsi explained that students can benefit from this. Mrs. Fryer explained that, since the classroom have not staying consistent through the years, there would be problems with teaching combined grades. Mrs. Fryer stated that the teachers are asking for 2 teachers for the one year in order to remedy the gaps.

Mrs. Gelsi reminded the public that enrollment will be dropping by 50% in the next few years. She also reminded the public that this meeting was held as a courtesy, and it was held for teachers to state their view points. She reminded the public that the budget was at a 54% increase last year, and that the Special Education costs are extremely high.

The public voiced concern regarding giving the town the opportunity to make a decision regarding the number of teachers at WES. Mrs. Gelsi responded that there is a meeting for the town on February 6th. Mrs. Gelsi also made it known that she does not want to cut a teacher. She stated that she would recommend a motion for a warrant article, but the town has to make a decision regarding paying for an extra teacher.

A discussion ensued regarding Special Education costs. Mrs. Gelsi explained that special education costs need to be accommodated according to the law. She also explained that WES has the highest special education rate in the region.

A discussion ensued regarding enrollment numbers. In particular, Mrs. Gelsi stated that WES is losing 14 students next year, and that WES has budgeted for 8 students to join Kindergarten

Mrs. Horne brought the discussion back to the curriculum, and voiced her concerns regarding playing “catch up” due to the gaps. A member of the public explained that some students get sent to High School without a whole piece of their curriculum.

Mr. Morrison recommended to the Board that they listen to what the public wants, and that they can’t count on projected enrollment. Mr. Morrison also recommended that the town should vote to cut a teacher from the budget. He stated that calling a state representative would not be helpful, and that the school can operate in the red. He stated that when WES has operated in the red for long enough, people are forced to change legislation.

There was a motion to end public session at 6:00 PM.

NON PUBLIC

There was a motion to enter into Non –Public session at 6:01 PM.

The budget was discussed.
PUBLIC SESSION

There was a motion to enter public session at 6:15 PM.

The School Board decided to put the teacher back into the budget. There would be one teacher for grades 1 and 2, one teacher for grades 3 and 4, one teacher for grade 5, one teacher for grade 6, one teacher for grade 7, and one teacher for grade 8. It was also decided to add back the $36,000 for out of district placement.

The meeting ended at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle McCauley
Secretary
WENTWORTH SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
WENTWORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
WENTWORTH, NH  
February 20, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT
Mrs. Dustin, Mrs. Mack

OTHERS PRESENT
Mrs. Gaides, Mr. Keene, Mrs. Bownes – Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT
Mrs. Muzzey, Mrs. Goddett, Kevin Patten, Brook Duchette

CALL TO ORDER
Mrs. Dustin called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW AND DISPOSITION
The Board reviewed and disposed of the agenda.

Mr. Keen added Mr. Patten under Other Issues.

Mrs. Dustin advised that Discussion Items A, B, and C will be tabled to the next meeting as Mrs. Gelsi is absent from this evenings proceedings.

Mrs. Dustin advised that the non-public session will also be tabled due to the absence of Mrs. Gelsi.

MINUTES
It was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Mack to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2006, January 26, 2006 and the February 6, 2006 meetings as presented. Vote was unanimous.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
In addition to Mr. Keene’s written report, he briefly reviewed the following items with the Board:

1. Honor Roll (numbers reviewed)
2. Ski Program (concluded this past Friday)
3. Warren Village School Power Point Presentation re: Kindergarten Program (to be shown during an upcoming meeting)
4. Grades 6 – 8 visit to Gallery Works at PSU

CORRESPONDENCE
The Board acknowledged the following correspondence

1. Miscellaneous magazines and publications
2. NHSBA Packets

DISCUSSION ITEMS
Electronic Equipment/Cell Phone Policy

Tabled

Weapons Policy

Tabled

Ski Program

Tabled

Other Issues

Mr. Patten came before the Board and expressed his concern with regard to the trees located on the property line of the school. He said given last week’s wind storm, it is time to take these down.
Mr. Patten advised that removal of these trees will require a skidder and extension cables, because they lean toward the school.

Mr. Patten said he would like to see someone take them down and do it for what they can get at the mills for the wood. Mr. Patten said he is willing to help with the clean up.

It was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Mack to authorize Mr. Patten to continue to try and find someone to take the trees down in exchange for what can be gotten out of the wood and without damage to school property. It is also to be done during vacation or when the children are not on the premises. Vote was unanimous.

It was noted by the Board that if this is not possible, he will come before the Board again to work out another arrangement.

**RECOGNITION & AWARDS**

Mr. Keene recognized the following individuals:

- Brianna Foster, Mary Kate Melanson for taking gold medals in skiing
- Mathcounts Team: Nora Dubois, Chelsea Brown, Letitia Goss, John Cormiea, Coach Sullivan
- Basketball Team placed 2nd in the League
- All Star Participants, Scott Vien, Brianna Foster, Hope Blodgett, Boys – Brian Gove and Lee Anderson
- 2 4th grade Wentworth students chosen to attend State Capital to read with the Senators

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. Muzzey inquired as to why the minutes were being taken by a paid recording secretary. Mrs. Dustin said it was because the Board felt they could participate more fully if the minutes were being taken by an outside party.

Mr. Muzzey inquired as to why the minutes are being signed by the recording secretary and pointed out that they should be signed by the Board. Mrs. Gaides said she would check the RSA's with regard to signatures on the minutes.

Mr. Patten inquired as to the status of the scoreboard. Mr. Keene said he would look into this.

Mrs. Dustin, in response to a question by Mr. Patten relative to the backstop stated that this item was put on hold.

Mr. Muzzey said he has volunteered and is volunteering again to substitute for free, whenever there is a demand in the 7th and 8th grades. He said that despite his offer, he has never been called upon in over 10 years. Mrs. Gaides was asked to send him an application for substituting.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board signed A/P #22 manifest as presented.

**Claims and Payroll**

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

Tabled

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Following are the upcoming meeting dates for the Wentworth School Board:
March 20, 2006
April 17, 2006
May 15, 2006
June 19, 2006

The Annual School District Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**  
At 6:30 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Dustin, seconded by Mrs. Mack that there being no further business to come before the Board, that the meeting be adjourned. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Bownes  
Recording Secretary  
Board Works
MEMBERS PRESENT
Mr. Morrison, Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Mack

OTHERS PRESENT
Mrs. Gaides, Mr. Keene, Mrs. Bownes – Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT
Mr. Muzzey, Mrs. Gaudette, Kevin Patten, Brook Duchette

CALL TO ORDER
Mrs. Gaides called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

ELECT CHAIR
It shall be noted that Mrs. Gelsi nominated Mr. Morrison and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Mack.

AGENDA REVIEW AND DISPOSITION
The Board reviewed and disposed of the agenda.

MINUTES
It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Mack to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2006, January 26, 2006 and the February 20, 2006 meetings as presented. Vote was unanimous.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
In addition to Mr. Keene’s written report, he briefly reviewed the following items with the Board:

1. Cultural Arts Night
2. Annual Review of School Improvement Plan

CORRESPONDENCE
The Board acknowledged the following correspondence

1. Miscellaneous
2. Letter from Melody Gaudette (presented at the meeting)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

'06-'07 School Calendar
It was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to accept and approve the '06-'07 School Calendar as presented. Vote was unanimous.

NECAP Test Results
Mrs. Gaides shared the information relative to the NECAP testing. Mrs. Gaides advised that a presentation relative to the test results will be provided at the next meeting.

A citizen at the meeting said that she is under the understanding that there are numbers that go out to the public and then numbers that are kept for the state. Mrs. Gaides explained that there is a parent report and then there are numbers depicting what the school as a whole looks like (Grades 6, 7, & 8 in Wentworth).

A citizen at the meeting asked why Wentworth scores are so low. Mrs. Gaides said that the report will be reviewed in more depth at the next meeting.

Mrs. Gaides emphasized that there are curriculum initiatives undertaken to address areas of concern.

Mrs. Gelsi clarified for those present that the special education students are included in
these results.

A citizen at the meeting inquired as to what is being done to improve these scores. Mrs. Gaides explained that a variety of curriculum analysis will be conducted and initiatives are and will be undertaken to address areas of weakness.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Mr. Keene recognized the following individuals:

- Brook Duchette and the cast and supporting cast for their performance in The Boarding House.
- Steve Welch for construction of backdrops
- Bixby for paint and art work

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

A citizen at the meeting pointed out that according to the NECAP testing percentages were low back in 2003 and we are still testing low. Mrs. Gelsi pointed out that the special education population has grown significantly and this affects the scores.

A citizen at the meeting pointed out that accommodations are built into the testing for those special education students.

A citizen at the meeting inquired why the special education students are included. Mrs. Gaides said that the No Child Left Behind Act requires this.

A citizen at the meeting noted that Wentworth is being tested the same way as the rest of the towns in the state and stated that Wentworth is continuously scoring low.

Mr. Patten said that the bottom line is sometimes it is the family and it has nothing to do with the Board or the teachers or the school.

Mr. Muzzey said that 6 years ago or more he brought it to the people’s attention that our students score the lowest in the state. He said that something needs to be done. He said he has been in on curriculum meetings and he doesn’t believe it is the curriculum or the teachers. He said he believes it is the administration and the teaching methods.

A citizen at the meeting said that if you look at the history of special education in Wentworth over the past 8 years, there has been a consistent turn over of special education teachers. She pointed out that children are pushed to the next level year to year and this is a problem. She said that with this many IEP’s there should be more special education people on staff. She noted that there are 4 or 5 children per grade that need additional services. This citizen emphasized that some of these children cannot be helped here at this school. She said that children who are in the 7th grade, but are at the 4th grade level, will need more help than the staff can give.

A citizen at the meeting stated that in grades 1 – 5 special education needs are being met. She said this wasn’t happening before. She said this will help those students, but unfortunately the upper grades are the ones that suffered.

Mr. Keene stated that there is also the extremely small sample size to be considered. He said a few low scores can drop the total score down significantly. He said this is just one set of statistics. He said the Terra Nova and local assessments also have to be considered.
Mrs. Gelsi said that the bottom line is that in the 7th grade half over the class is testing substantially below proficiency.

Mr. Milligan said he doesn’t accept the fact that the low scores are due to the low numbers. He said if we have low numbers, we should have higher scores. He said if students don’t meet the curriculum, they shouldn’t be passed to the next grade.

Mr. Morrison said that there are a lot of children that don’t need to be coded or have an IEP and that it is a convenient excuse along the way.

Mr. Muzzey said that 6 years running, you should see highs and lows, but we don’t see any good classes going through.

The Board disagreed with this and pointed to the 3th, 4th and 5th grade scores.

A citizen inquired as to what the solutions are to this problem. She suggested home tutoring, parent involvement, etc. This citizen said this shouldn’t be on the Board or the teachers alone. She asked what parents and the community can do.

Mrs. Gelsi said that there are families that cannot afford tutoring.

A citizen at the meeting suggested these families make a request of the PTO.

Mrs. Gelsi said she has never heard a teacher turn down a student requesting extra help. A citizen at the meeting said that parents should attend these extra help sessions.

Mrs. Sanborn stated that the responsibility for these students lies with the parents and the school. She said that she invites parents into the classroom and advises parents on how to assist at home.

Mrs. Sanborn reviewed the process for coding a child and getting an IEP.

Mrs. Sanborn (representing the teachers union) said that with regard to the recent article submitted to the Record Citizen by the Chairman of the Board, there was misinformation printed. She said that the WEA never demanded the Board keep a regular education teacher. Mrs. Sanborn stated that the teachers feel that the article is not supportive of the school or the staff and is directed at the teachers. She advised that the WEA is disappointed in this article. A letter from the Wentworth Teacher’s Association was presented to the Board.

A lengthy discussion between the WEA members present and the Board ensued with regard to the article printed and information discussed at meetings and budget hearings.

Mrs. Gelsi said she has written a letter of clarification and submitted it to the Record Enterprise.

Mrs. Sanborn said the WEA is very disappointed and feeling very unsupported.

Mrs. Gelsi said the article is awful and noted that the teachers did not demand the regular education teacher be kept. Mrs. Gelsi said she supports the teachers and emphasized that they didn’t demand anything. She said the teachers, in fact, had made a presentation on how to address the weaknesses in the school.
Mr. Patten stated his belief that there is no more important job in this country than a teacher. He said good teachers deserve good salaries, but there is a limit to where throwing money at things solves problems. Mr. Patten inquired when the union contract is up for negotiation. Mrs. Gaides said that 2007-2008 is the end of the current contract. Mrs. Sanborn pointed out that the Wentworth teachers are the lowest paid teachers in the state.

Mr. Patten asked who negotiates the contract and Mrs. Gaides stated that it is between the Board and the union.

Mr. Kolb said there are some very angry people out there about the huge spike in the taxes. He said property values in this town are going to go down. Mr. Kolb said that the Selectmen get a list several times a year relative to people that are in arrears in their taxes. He said there are a lot of people in arrears in their taxes and these people are angry. Mr. Kolb said the School Board has to address the tax rate and the test scores.

Mrs. Gove asked why there wasn’t a consideration in having a bond for the building project/renovations. Mrs. Gelsi said that the previous Board discussed a bond and the majority of the people that showed up at the meeting along with the Board and the facilities committee felt that a bond would increase taxes over 5 years as opposed to a one time increase. She said that the Board went with the recommendation that a one time increase was better.

Mrs. Gelsi said that the Board made all the cuts it could in order to make the necessary repairs and improvements affordable.

Mr. Muzzey interjected that there is a deadline by which you cannot, by contract, fire a teacher.

A citizen at the meeting inquired if the public has access to the transcripts of each meeting. Mrs. Gaides advised that all minutes of meetings are available to the public.

Mrs. Gaides explained the grants being taken advantage of within the school.

A citizen suggested that after school programs could be utilized to help the students that are struggling.

Mr. Muzzey said that the teaching methods are the problem, not the curriculum.

Mrs. Murray asked if it was possible to call a special meeting to change the warrant article and request a bond so the taxes wouldn’t take such a hit. Mrs. Gaides was asked to look into this option by Mrs. Murray.

A citizen at the meeting said that there is a lot of negativity around the letter that appeared in the newspaper. Mrs. Gelsi apologized for not being more clear in her original letter, and again stated that she had submitted a letter of clarification to the newspaper.

Mr. Morrison said as a Board member, he would not support a special meeting as the people spoke at the official meeting and the people voted for the budget.

A citizen at the meeting advised that we all have to stop pointing fingers and find solutions.
Mr. Muzzey agreed that a special meeting was not an option. He said that this issue is water over the dam. Mr. Muzzey said that the vote was taken and we are going to have to live with it.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board signed A/P #22 manifest as presented.

**Claims and Payroll**

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Following are the upcoming meeting dates for the Wentworth School Board:

- April 17, 2006
- May 15, 2006
- June 19, 2006

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

At 7:26 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi that the Board move into non-public in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, IIC to discuss nominations and a resignation. The Board was polled, vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

At 8:10 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi, that the Board return to public session. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Keene’s resignation was accepted with regret. Vote was unanimous.

The Board elected to approve the slate of nominations presented by the Superintendent. This was approved with a vote of 2-1 (Mrs. Mack opposing).

The Principal search was discussed. The School Board agreed to accept applications for the Principal search until May 10. The School Board will decide on the interview schedule at the May 15th meeting. The School Board has requested seven people on the committee” Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Melanson, and the remainder to be selected from parents and/or community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:20 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mr. Morrison, that there being no further business to come before the Board, that the meeting be adjourned. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Bownes  
Recording Secretary  
Board Works
MEMBERS PRESENT  Mr. Morrison, Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Mack

OTHERS PRESENT  Mrs. Gaides, Mr. Keene, Mrs. Bownes – Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT  34 members of the Wentworth community were present.

CALL TO ORDER  Mr. Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION  At 6:05 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mr. Morrison that the Board move into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss a resignations and a parent issue. The Board was polled, vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC SESSION  At 8:20 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi that the Board return to public session. Vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to accept the resignations of the following staff:

1. Steve Ligett
2. Janice McKim
3. Jennifer Walker
4. Andrea Canterbury
5. Erin Decotis
6. Tristan Blake

Vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi to approve the transfer of Alison Bagley to grade 6. Vote was unanimous.

AGENDA REVIEW AND DISPOSITION  The Board reviewed and disposed of the agenda.

MINUTES  It was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Mack to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2006 meetings as amended. Vote was unanimous.

The following amendments were made to the minutes of the March 23, 2006 meeting:

1. The spelling of Gaudette will be corrected throughout the document
2. Under Call to Order, Mrs. Gaides shall replace Mrs. Dustin
3. Under Election of the Chairman, it shall be noted that Mrs. Gelsi nominated Mr. Morrison and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Mack
4. Throughout the minutes, Mrs. Dustin shall be replaced by Mrs. Gelsi
5. In Public Session the slate of nominations shall be reflected as having been approved with a vote of 2 – 1 (Mrs. Mack opposing)

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT  None
CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged correspondence

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Electronic Equipment/
Cell Phone Policy

Tabled to the next meeting.

Weapons Policy

Tabled to the next meeting.

NECAP Results

Tabled to the next meeting.

 Other Issues

Tabled to the next meeting.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

A request was made to record the meeting for the record enterprise

Mr. Muzzey unnecessary for the Board to spend so long in the executive session and it could have been continued under Item X.

Mr. Morrison said that with regard to the non-public session, and parent issues, it does take precedent. He said that he apologizes for this, but that is the way it is going to be.

Mr. Millican agreed with Mr. Muzzey and stated that in his opinion the best way to handle this is to schedule these items earlier or do these items at the end of the meeting.

Scott _____________ regarding resignations read a letter voicing his opposition to the dismissal of staff.

Mr. Muzzey asked if these staff members that have resigned been given a reason for their request. Mrs. Gaides reviewed with those present RSA189:14A with regard to renomination/re-election.

Mrs. Comeau advised that with regard to No Child Left Behind these staff members may not be highly qualified as required by NCLB.

Mrs. Borger asked who makes the initial recommendation for dismissal and who makes the final decision. Nominations come from the Superintendent and Election from the School Board.

Mr. Muzzey pointed out that the Board can’t elect unless the Superintendent nominates.

Ms. Frederick asked if the Superintendent offered alternatives for staff to become highly qualified and Mrs. Gaides said that the alternative IV and V is offered throughout the SAU.

Mr. Blake advised that he is certified in English 5 – 12 and the SAU paid for the praxis test and he is scheduled to take the test. He commented that he thought he had until June to become highly qualified.

Mr. Morrison said that there was a certain date that the nominations had to be made and the Board can’t wait to see if he passes the test or not. Mr. Morrison said that the
opening will be posted and Mr. Blake can apply for the position.

A citizen at the meeting asked if the Board has ever visited the classrooms of those being non-renewed. Mr. Muzzey asked if teacher evaluation reports written and if any of these evaluations were negative.

Mrs. Sullivan said she has several letters in support of the staff being non-renewed. She said that Wentworth has all sorts of positions vacant at the moment. She said that attracting candidates with the low salaries being offered will be difficult. Mrs. Sullivan said it is her belief that we need to make some effort to retain these people for both continuity and quality of education.

A citizen at the meeting asked what the percentage of highly qualified middle school teachers in the SAU. Mrs. Gaides said that the highly qualified percentage in the SAU is very high throughout the K-12 districts.

Mrs. Herlihy asked if other schools are getting hit like Wentworth is with regard to highly qualified teachers and she asked why Wentworth wasn’t prepared for this. Mrs. Gaides said that there are similar situations in other districts.

Mr. Young asked if there wasn’t a way to work with these teachers, especially since they are going to take the test.

Ms. Gaudette asked if there is anything that can be done to retain the personnel that have resigned. Mrs. Gelsi said that there isn’t anything that can be done.

Mr. Morrison inquired as to the process for hiring staff and this was reviewed by Mr. Morrison and Mrs. Gelsi.

Mr. Muzzey said that the motion made after non-public session could be rescinded by the Board. He said that the motion should have been made after input from the public was received.

Mr. Muzzey suggested that for the SAU to pay for the test doesn’t make sense if the person is being non-renewed.

Mrs. Gaides with regard to the certification of the staff being non-renewed, advised that...
she is unable to comment on this.

Mr. Morrison advised that Mr. Legitt resigned on his own because he found something better as did Ms. Decotis as well as Ms. Walker.

Mr. Muzzey said he would like the Board to make a directive to the SAU to make sure the teacher knows why they are being let go. Mr. Morrison

Mr. Kolb asked what procedure is in place for replacing Mr. Keene. Mr. Morrison advised that a search committee is being formed and an advertisement has been placed soliciting participation.

Mrs. Comeau requested that parents be included on the search committee. Mr. Morrison said that those interested are to contact Mrs. Gaides at the SAU.

Mrs. Sullivan asked with regard to No Child Left Behind if the federal or state interpretation was being used. Mrs. Gaides said that New Hampshire has to go by the federal guidelines set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act.

Mr. Millican asked what the penalty is for not following No Child Left Behind. Mrs. Gaides advised that we would no longer be eligible for federal grants and as a title I school, if you do not have highly qualified teachers, letter have to go home to the families of the school. Mr. Millican asked how much money that would mean to the school annually. Mrs. Gaides said that it would be under $200,000. Mrs. Gaides pointed out that this is also part of the minimum standards and loss of accreditation. She said the Superintendent would also lose his certification for not hiring qualified staff.

Mrs. Morrison asked if the Board will be hiring teachers aides to replace those leaving and the Board confirmed that they would be hiring aides.

Mr. Muzzey asked why the Board allowed the administration to spend money and make a person jump through hoops with no clue as to why they are not being renewed.

Ms. Gossler, a student, commented that she is upset that these teachers are leaving.

Ms. Frederick asked if there was a cut off for applications. Mr. Morrison said that no limit for hiring has been established. Mr. Morrison advised that teachers must be highly qualified by June 30, 2006.

Mr. Patten asked if any of the teachers being dismissed if they were to become highly qualified, would they have a better chance of being hired since they are already in house.

Ms. Brown asked if Mr. Blake were to become certified would he be qualified to apply. The Board said that any qualified teacher is welcome to apply for openings.

Mr. Millican asked how much money the Wentworth School is spending to stay in compliance with NCLB. Mrs. Gaides said she would have to look this up and advised that NHSBA has done some research on this and she will get the information to Mr. Millican.

Mrs. Sanborn voiced her frustration with NCLB and the loss of these staff members.

A citizen at the meeting inquired if there are a lot of highly qualified teachers looking for jobs? Mrs. Gaides said that the positions have to be advertised and posted as required.
Mrs. Young asked if there are plans to reconfigure the grades. The Board explained the plans for the configuration of the grades.

Mr. Muzzey commented that his opinion is that the Board would want to know a reason for not being rehired if they were in this position. He asked if the Board would consider rescinding the motion for non-renewal.

Mr. Kenyon asked if a contingency plan will be developed if we don’t have enough teachers to run the school. The Board expressed confidence that the school will be fully staffed.

Mrs. Kolb said that Tristan Blake was an excellent teacher and it will be hard to replace him. Mrs. Kolb said that her feeling is that Wentworth will get bottom of the barrel in place of a quality teacher.

A citizen at the meeting asked what the costs related to searching, hiring and retraining new people is and who foots that bill. Mr. Morrison said that the positions that are opened will be filled by highly qualified teachers.

Superintendent makes the decision to cut these positions knowing they should be supporting Wentworth. Mrs. Mack said that the costs involved are already contained in the budget. Mr. Morrison said that there is no extra cost.

Mr. Millican pointed out that whether the state, SAU or Wentworth pays for all of this it, it is still in your taxes.

Mrs. Borger asked when these job postings will be in the public. Mr. Morrison advised that they will be posted tomorrow on edjobsnh.com.

Mr. Muzzey said that the cost of hiring is not a remote concern as it is a pittance. He said what is an issue is the damage done. Mr. Muzzey said everyone here has spoken in favor of those who resigned. He said something smells afoul here.

Ms. Frederick suggested that those with concerns write letters to your representatives expressing your disapproval of the NCLB.

Mr. Young thanked the Board for being patient with the public and the questions asked.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board signed A/P manifest 28, 29 and P/R 23 as presented.

**Claims and Payroll**

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Following are the upcoming meeting dates for the Wentworth School Board:

May 15, 2006
June 19, 2006

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:40 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Mack that there being no further business to come before the Board, that the meeting be adjourned. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen A. Bownes
Recording Secretary
Board Works
MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Morrison, Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Mack

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Gaides

PUBLIC PRESENT: 9 members of the community

NON PUBLIC: It was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi, to begin Non Public session at 5:08 PM. Vote was unanimous.

Legal Issues were discussed.

At 6:11 PM, it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi, to end Non-Public session.

PUBLIC SESSION: At 6:17 PM, it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Mack, to begin Public session. Vote was unanimous. Mrs. Gelsi left the meeting at 6:17 PM.

AGENDA REVIEW: It was decided to move the issue of personnel from the first non-public session, to the last non public session. NECAP results were tabled until the next meeting.

MINUTES: On page 1, under Public session, change “seconded by Mrs. Gelsi” to “seconded by Mrs. Mack”

On page 3, after Scott, add the last name Coykendall.

Mr. Muzzey requested a change to the minutes. On the bottom of page 4, the sentence was unfinished. He would like this sentence to finish with “suggested that perhaps their contract could be renewed and revised under the new administration”.

In the 3rd paragraph of page 5, the name Mr. Morrison was deleted, as there was no sentence with this name.

On a motion by Mrs. Mack, seconded by Mr. Morrison, the minutes of April 17, 2006 were approved as amended.

PRINCIPALS REPORT: Mrs. Gaides reported for Mr. Keene. She stated that a group had recently met to discuss strategies for the math
curriculum. Mr. Keene will report more about these strategies at the next meeting.
Also, Mrs. Gaides asked the Board about the June 2nd and 3rd school trip to Canada. It was decided that the background check results will be reviewed. This trip was approved, pending the background checks.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was distributed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Principal search

Mrs. Gaides explained that she sent several resumes to the board. She asked the Board to number their top 10 candidates. A 7 person interview panel was decided. This panel will be:

Mrs. Deb Gelsi, Mrs. Kathleen Mack, Ms. Aaron Comeau, Mr. Scott Coykendall, Ms. Amy Friedrich, Laurie Melanson, Ms. Kerry Brown

On a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Mack, the principal search panel was approved.

A discussion ensued regarding the process with which to proceed. It was decided that the SAU office would send out the candidate’s resumes to the panel on Tuesday, May 16. It was also decided that on May 24th at 6:00 PM at Wentworth Elementary School, an organizational meeting would be held with the panel. All panel members will need to bring their calendars to this meeting. If a panel member is unable to make it to the meeting, Mr. Muzzey will be the alternate.

Once a finalist is chosen, Mrs. Gaides recommended that the committee visits the school where he or she is now working, if possible.

B. Electronic equipment/Cell phone policy

Mr. Morrison read the policy aloud. A discussion ensued regarding the use of electronic equipment on buses. It was discussed that headsets are not to be used during school hours, and that this is already being enforced in the school. It was suggested to remove the sentence on toys. It was decided that Mrs. Mack would rework this policy, and that draft 1 would be ready for the next meeting.
Wentworth Elementary School
Official Minutes

C. Weapons policy
Mrs. Gaides handed out a draft of the weapons policy from the New Hampshire School Board Association. On a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Mack, the weapons policy was approved as drafted.

D. NECAP results
Tabled to next month

E. Other Issues
Mr. Morrison discussed the importance of having a plan in place for the potential of the Bird Flu. Mrs. Gaides stated that the school has support from Speare Hospital. Mrs. Gaides also stated that there is a contagious disease policy.

Recognition and Awards:
None

Privilege of the Floor:
A discussion ensued regarding students who would like to come to Wentworth Elementary School from Warren. Mr. Morrison stated that he will be discussing this with Mr. Bagley.

A discussion ensued regarding the future of the school. Mrs. Gaides stated that there are excellent applicants for the music and computer teacher positions. She stated that there are applicants for the 7th and 8th grade positions, and that a team of teachers will be involved in those hiring decisions.

A discussion ensued regarding summer programs, and grant money that may be used to fund these programs. Mrs. Gaides stated that she works with the Principals on grants for summer programs.

A discussion ensued regarding construction projects at Wentworth Elementary School. It was decided to let Mr. Francis speak to this issue in the future.

It was decided that Mrs. Gaides will provide an estimated assessment schedule directly to the Selectman.

Consent Items
A. Claims and Payroll
Payroll #25 was completed
Manifest #32 was signed and circulated

NON-PUBLIC SESSION
At 7:12 PM, it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Mack, that the Board move into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Vote was unanimous.

A personnel issue was discussed.
At 7:45 PM, it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Mack, to re-enter into public session. Vote was unanimous.

Kathleen Kolman was approved to become the music teacher for 2 days per week. Marc L. Rondeau was approved to become the technology teacher for 1 day per week.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Following are the upcoming meeting dates for the Wentworth School Board:

June 19, 2006

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:05 PM, it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Mack, that there be no further business to come before the Board, and that the meeting be adjourned. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle McCauley
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
At 7:01 PM, it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Mack, to enter into non-public session.
At 8:20 PM, it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Mack, to end non-public session.

Mr. Morrison moved, seconded by Mrs. Mack, to accept the nomination of the Superintendent. Vote was unanimous. The nomination was as follows:

Keith Charpentier – Principal

The following people were elected.

Heather Clark – Middle School Aide, Sp. Ed.
Deana Toomey – Aide Grades 1/2, 3/4 Reg Ed.
Bernice Sullivan – Middle School Aide Sp. Ed.

Mr. Morrison moved, seconded by Mrs. Mack, that Mr. Keith Charpentier handles the interviewing for all vacancies as of July 5, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Morrison
Wentworth School Board
Wentworth, NH
June 19, 2006
Minutes

Board Members Present: Deb Gelsi, Lee Morrison, Kathleen Mack
Administration Present: Ethel Gaides, Keith Charpentier
Others Present: 4 Members of the Community

Mr. Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

I. Agenda Review and Disposition – no changes

II. Minutes of May 15 and June 5, 2006
On a motion by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mr. Morrison, the minutes of May 15, 2006 were approved as written. Vote was unanimous.
In the minutes for June 5, 2006, the sentence that ends “interviewing for all vacancies as of June 5, 2006”, shall be changed to July 5, 2006.
On a motion by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mr. Morrison, the minutes of June 5, 2006 were approved as amended. Vote was unanimous.

III. Principals Report – Mrs. Gaides reported that a team met to address areas of concern for NECAP scores. It was decided that Harcourt, who is the representative for the Math series, needs to work with the teachers before school opens. Mrs. Gaides explained that proficiency means that a student is able to handle that particular grade material. It was explained that testing will happen again in October. Once that happens, the children’s progress will be able to be followed. A discussion ensued regarding ways to reward students for difficult test taking.
On a motion by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mrs. Mack, the board moves to accept the Principals report as presented by Ethel Gaides. Vote was unanimous.

IV. Correspondence – Mail was distributed

V. Discussion Items
A. Electronic Equipment Policy – It was decided to change “magic cards” to “trading cards” and to change the list of electronic equipment to “no digital or electronic equipment”. Mrs. Mack will revise this policy. On a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Mack, the Electronic Equipment Policy was approved as amended. Vote was unanimous.
B. Bird Flu discussion - tabled
C. NECAP discussion – Discussed in the Principals report.
D. School Board Calendar for 2006-2007 – The Board decided to move the meetings to the 2nd Monday of each month. The Board decided to skip the July and August meetings. There will be a meeting regarding nominations during the summer.
E. Other Issues – Mrs. Gaides stated that Mr. Korade asked the Board if they would be willing to give the excess debris to the Pemi Fish and Game. Mr. Richard Young highly recommended that the Wentworth School Board donate this to the Pemi Fish and Game. The Board voted unanimously to donate the excess debris from Wentworth Elementary School to Pemi Fish and Game.

VI. Recognition and Awards
Mr. Bruce Henderson would like to publicly thank Wentworth Elementary School Board for being at the SAU 48 Meeting.
Mr. Morrison recognized Melody Gaudette on behalf of Mr. Keene.
Mr. Morrison recognized Angela Comeau on behalf of Mr. Keene.
Mr. Morrison recognized Scott Coykendall on behalf of Mr. Keene.

VII. Privilege of the Floor
Richard Young asked about the possibility of a connecting door between the Grades 3-4 and Grade 5 classrooms. Mr. Young recommended that this be completed, and he offered to conduct more research. Mrs. Gelsi voiced that she did not feel as though this was the year in which to pursue this project. Mrs. Gaides stated that she could talk to Jon Francis to gather more information.

Mrs. Fryer asked about decisions regarding students from Warren. Mr. Charpentier will be involved with this continuing issue.

Ms. Bagley stated that there was no budget request for 6th grade. Mrs. Gelsi suggests that Ms. Bagley looks at the past few years and submit a ballpark figure.

Mr. Charpentier will be starting as the Principal on July 5th. It was decided that the Board will help Mr. Young with any questions he may have regarding the building until July 5th. After that time, Mr. Young will direct his questions to Mr. Charpentier.

Mrs. Gaudette asked the Board if the PTO could use the school on August 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 for an ice cream social and game night. Mrs. Gaudette requested permission to use the kitchen and gym area. On a motion by Mrs. Gelsi, seconded by Mr. Morrison, the Board approved unanimously to let the PTO use Wentworth Elementary School on August 24, 2005.

On a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi, the Board decided to move into Non-Public session at 7:10 PM. Vote was unanimous.

VIII. Non-Public – A Personnel issue was discussed.
On a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi, the Board voted unanimously to re-enter public session at 7:42 PM.

On behalf of Mr. Halloran, Superintendent of Schools, Tristan Blake was unanimously elected for grades 7/8 English/Language Arts/Reading and Social Studies. Alison Bagley
wentworth School Board
Unofficial Minutes

was unanimously elected for grades 6-8 in Science, 6th grade homeroom, and a subject in 6th grade that is to be announced.

The Board accepted with regret the resignations of Catherine Berei and Jo-Ann Gardella.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Mack, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle McCauley
Unofficial Minutes

Wentworth School Board
Meeting Minutes
Wentworth Elementary School
Wentworth, NH
July 31, 2006

Members Present: Mr. Morrison, Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Mack

Others Present: Mr. Charpentier, Mrs. Gaides

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Non-Public Session: At 6:05 PM, it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi that the Board move into non-public in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, IIC to discuss nominations. The Board was polled, vote was unanimous.

Public Session: At 7:15 PM, it was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Gelsi, that the Board return to public session. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Morrison moved to approve the slate of nominations:

Melissa LaChance: Grades 3-4 Long-Term Substitute Teacher

Andrew Schalm: Grades 6-8 Math/ Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher

Carmlina Fauteux: .20 Art Teacher

Marc Rondeau: .20 Physical Education Teacher

William Cabell: Middle School Special Education Aide

Ashley Deneau: 1:1 Aide

It was seconded by Mrs. Mack. The vote was unanimous.

A phone poll was conducted on August 31, 2006. Mrs. Gelsi and Mrs. Mack voted in favor of hiring Lauren Zimmerman for the Guidance Counselor position.

A phone poll was conducted on August 23, 2006. Mrs. Gelsi, Mrs. Mack and Mr. Morrison voted in favor of hiring Evie Spodnik for the para professional position.

The School Board discussed the request by Mr. Charpentier that school begins fifteen minutes earlier. The School Board approved the request. The School Board asked Mrs. Gaides to contact the school bus company.
Unofficial Minutes

The School Board discussed the request by Mr. Charpentier for trimesters and the Northern Stage project for grades 5/6 (January – April, 2007). The requests were approved.

The School Board discussed the request for connecting classroom doors. They voted not to approve the request. The School Board approved the request for the teachers affected by the summer project to be compensated for one day to complete the process of returning all classroom materials (from the gym to the classroom).

Mrs. Gaides discussed with the School Board the request from the New Hampshire Department of Education for School Approval regarding the Library Media Standards. The School Board gave Mrs. Gaides permission to write the alternative compliance for minimum standards based on not having a library media center in the school. Additionally, if there are any deficiencies reported on the fire and health inspection reports, the school will receive a status of conditional approval until the deficiencies are corrected.

Adjournment: At 7:22 PM, it was moved by Mr. Morrison, and seconded by Mrs. Gelsi that there being no further business to come before the Board, that the meeting be adjourned. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Morrison, Wentworth School Board Chairman
School Board Goals (2005-2006):

1. Finish Policy Manual
2. Replace Back Stop … send to Committee for Pricing
3. Address Space Issues: Portable Classroom (library/computer/music)
4. Set Standard for New Heating System … send to Committee for Pricing
5. Define Role of School Resource Officer
6. Explore DARE Program Certification
7. Build Camaraderie (Relationship Building/Trust) among Middle School Students … PSU Ropes Course Possibility
8. Ski Program Warrant Article

Nonpublic Session (RSA 91-A:3)
(Exclusive allowable purposes are: personnel issues, nominations and hiring, reputation, sale or acquisition of property, litigation; 91-A:2 (non-meetings) consultant with legal counsel or negotiations; 91-A:5 student records or information deemed confidential, personal or invasion of privacy.)
1. Personnel